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Workers' Dreadnought

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THE GREY WOMEN.

By F. V. CONOLLY.

The Græel or Grey women, in Greek mythology, were three hags, who lived on a rocky island in the unknown Western Ocean. They had but one eye between them. Perseus stole their eye and only returned it to them on the condition that they guided him to the home of the Nymphs, who gave him winged sandals of swiftness, the magical wallet of plenty and the helmet of invisibility.

It was a typical English New Year's Eve. A chilling drizzle of sleet and rain fell unceasingly. Gay crowds of shoppers and family parties were unceasingly calling for taxis or surging their way into the brightly-lit Tube station.

The outside of the famous Frivolity theatre was a blaze of light. Some girls daintily clad in silks and furs stood under the portico sheltering from the fast falling sleet, which threatened to play havoc with their satin shoes and gauzy stockings if once they ventured into the open.

A taxi-cab drew up and a tall young man, in a fur overcoat that concealed his immaculate evening dress, emerged. "What's the fare, driver?" he asked.

"The clock says 'alf-a-crown, sir," was the reply.

He fumbled in his pocket and produced a roll of notes. "Here's a Bradbury, old sport," he said; "keep the change. It's New Year's Eve!"

"Thank you, sir. A happy New Year!"

One of the waiting girls entered the taxi and drove off to a night club, where a New Year's supper and ball was about to be held. The young man took out a gold watch glanced at the time and said: "Half past nine. I suppose the weather is too bad for Doris to meet me!" He gazed up and down for Doris, when suddenly his eye was caught by what looked like bundles of rags huddled on the steps of the Frivolity entrance.

Clarence Royce, as the young man was called, looked closely at the bundles.

"My God, they're women!" he said. "I believe they're dead!"

He approached one of the bundles and stirred it with his foot. Slowly it moved itself, and on old woman, clad in noisome rags, bedraggled in rain and mud raised herself from the heap. A simultaneous movement occurred with the other bundles and Clarence Royce found himself confronted on the steps of that abode of light and splendour with three old women, who, on seeing that the disturber of their uneasy slumbers was a well-dressed young man, simultaneously set up a doleful whine.

"In long thin locks; dreadful their faces were
Carved all about with wrinkles of despair;
And, as they sat, they crooned a dreary song
Complaining that their lives should last so long."*

"What the devil are you doing, sleeping on the steps a night like this? You ought to be home and warm in bed, you naughty old ladies," said Clerence not unkindly.

A ghost of a smile came over the wrinkled face of one of the croons. "How long is it since we've slept in a bed, Mary?" she asked her sister in misery.

"Don't know! Don't care!" was the reply.

"Well, lift yourselves up and have a drop of something hot, before closing time," said Clarence. "I'm chilled myself, but you must be the absoballylute limit."

The "grey women" tottered to their feet and followed Clarence across the road to a public house. "No, no. You mustn't go in the saloon. They will not let us in, much less serve us," said the woman called Mary in a warning voice. "You must go in the four-ale bar."

The barmaid looked surprised to see the well-dressed Clarence followed by the three wrecks of womanhood. "Hope the toff has brought some Keating's with him," she remarked in an audible voice to the loungers in the bar. "Being served, sir? Three double Scotches hot and a brandy and soda split. Thank you, sir. Change!"

The three "grey women" drank the spirits greedily. "Have another," said the good natured Clarence. "It won't hurt you, and then I'll give you some money to get over the New Year with. I can afford it," he continued. This day I've borrowed £5,000 on a reversion. I'm going to have a good time with Doris and then set down to make money in the City! Come, tell me how you're all like this on a New Year's Eve, too?"

"It would be a long, long story," said the woman called Mary. "But what you've just said has brought back the past. Forty years ago I was in the front row of the Gaiety chorus. All the 'Johnnies' like you (we didn't call 'em "nuts" then) used to rave about my face and limbs. There was one poor fellow, he's dead now, named Jim!"

"Just like you forty years ago to the day, he sold his income for £12,000 and took me to Brighton on a four-in-hand which he bought. We had a happy time, money to burn, sealskins, diamonds and champagne galore.

"After a fortnight's enjoyment we came back to town. Jim got in with the 'boys,' and in less than six weeks he was broke.

"I couldn't go back to the theatre for a baby was coming, so for some time we lived on a few hundreds I got from pawning.

'Jim still had a cheque-book but no money at the bank. He started changing 'stummers,' and on the very day our baby was born, poor Jim was pinched—got three months! When he came out I was living in poor lodgings in Lambeth. Jim tried to get get work but couldn't. He knew no trade, and although he was a 'Varsity man, was ignorant of nearly everything useful. He drifted about and eventually joined the 'boys' and committed some thefts and got five of the best.

"I was still a handsome woman, so I took to the pavement and for a time did very well. I had the kiddie to keep. I'm thankful now that she died when she was eight, though I wept bitterly when I put her in her little coffin, and the landladies took every penny almost that I made."

"Yes, the bitches!" said the other toothless woman. "They do say as men is the cause of women's downfall. I say it's rubbish! It's landladies! I was a working woman up to sixty, and I was turned out to walk the streets because I owed a fortnight's rent, when I was out of work, and was brought down to this!"

"Don't interrupt, Janey," said the other woman. "Mary's tale interests the kind gentleman."

"Well, Jim did his five 'stretch' and came out a broken man.

"As a result of his 'time' he was in consumption. The doctor said wine and luxuries like we used to have years before when poor old Jim did in his money would save him! How was I to get them? Well, one night I 'searched' an old gent and took his pocket-book, which was full of tenners!

"He 'screamed' to the police. The notes were traced and I got twelve months! Jim died in the workhouse infirmary while I was doing my 'bit.'

"Since then I've lost heart. My beauty had gone, no one would give me work, so I just sit about and wait for death!"

"But how do you live, my poor woman?" inquired Clarence.

"Don't know. Don't care," was the stereotyped reply. "There's a porter in a restaurant who gives us scraps, and sometimes passers-by gives us coppers."

Clarence gave the "grey women" all the change he possessed. The story had depressed him. It flashed across his mind that like the Jim who became a thief and died in the infirmary, the world had no use for a man without money, unless he was required for profit or cannon fodder!

"Sad story, guv'nor," said a workman who had overheard. "Very common, though—not at all unusual. There's a million out of work now, yet they and their families are clamouring for the riches they are not allowed to produce! Things *must* be altered. Capitalism should never be allowed to enjoy another happy New Year founded on the misery of the masses!"

"That's Bolshevism, isn't it?" asked Clarence.

"Yus, and common sense, too," answered the workman. "I heard you say you had money, guv'nor, but take care of it. Capitalism gives you no security. You might come down to be like the Jim the old woman was talking about. It's ignorance that keeps the world back. Think over what I have said, guv'nor, when you're eating your New Year's dinner."

* "The Doom of King Acrisius." By William Morris.

DREADNOUGHT DEVELOPMENT FUND.

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OGMORE VALLEY NOTES.

By "Communist."

XMAS, 1920.

To the Irish Labour Movement, Xmas, 1920 will be ever memorable, inasmuch as it is an expression of that favourite Christian maxim, namely, "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men," now being meted out to the Irish nation, in terms of reprisals, the burning of creameries, the destruction of houses, with the inevitable result of rendering thousands of people homeless and destitute; and perpetrated by a Christian Government. What a mockery, comrades? The above is what our ruling class terms "Christianity," what we Communists term the horrors of Capitalism. Knowing that such a struggle exists, and at the present moment has reached a climax, the outcome of which is martial law in Erin's Isle, the British Labour Movement still looks on.

What a disgrace comrades!

Why not extend the functions of the Council of Action, to succour the working classes in Ireland?

Eight centuries of British mis-rule, comrades, it is civilisation, 1920; and we are living in a so-called enlightened age, and across St. George's Channel, stands Ireland, a subject nation.

This is Capitalism, comrades; work for its complete overthrow.

Sunday Cinemas.

During the past week, a great deal of discussion has been going on in the Valley, among the religious sects, as to whether a seven days' license be granted the various Halls and Cinemas. The matter was brought to the forefront, owing to the fact that the Workmen's Hall Committee instructed its very able Secretary, who is an advanced man, to apply to the local Council *re* the showing of Lantern Slides to illustrate different subjects, held under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A., every Sunday evening during the winter. As soon as this was done, a rumour went abroad that the Secretary, in being so instructed, was endeavouring to force the thin end of the wedge; thereby influencing the committee, with a view to having pictures shown, other than the lantern slides provided to illustrate the said lectures. This caused a great stir at a certain Baptist Chapel, which resulted in an outburst from one of the deacons, to the effect that the Secretary of the Workmen's Hall was an agent of the Devil. A meeting, representative of the various Churches, was convened, which resulted in a resolution being passed, asking the Local Council to refrain from granting the seven days' license to Cinemas, until a deputation, representative of the religious bodies, waited upon them to state their side of the case. The Council decided that the licences be not granted. The moral is obvious; it proves the narrowmindedness and the pre-historic views held by certain influential members of the Churches nowadays. Is it any wonder that so many young men keep away from places of worship, when men of this calibre are inside them?

Industrial Unionism.

The recent notes *re* the amalgamation which has taken place among shop-workers, gives an impetus to other classes of workers who are at present non-Unionists to line up with their comrades in the Trade Union Movement. It makes them realise that only through "Unity" will they better their conditions in capitalist society. The developments that are now taking place in the Engineering world alone is sufficient to convince all unorganised workers of the need of one large Industrial Union for all workers. We are really heading, in the Trade Union world, for that goal, namely, Industrial Unionism, which is today superseding Craft Unionism. As Communists, it is our duty to the working classes to urge for the linking up of all small Unions, in order to attain the above objective. Soviet Russia is well advanced in this sphere, owing to good organisation: the history of the same is well compiled in a small handbook, entitled "Trade Unions in Soviet Russia," by A. Lozovsky, member of Central Trade Unions, issued by the S.L. Press, Glasgow, which is an exceedingly fine handbook and should be in the hands of every worker. Hail to the Soviets!

The Coming War.

A subject which is causing a great deal of discussion at present in Ogmore Valley is undoubtedly that of the above. It gives people food for thought, as they are now beginning to realise all this futile talk about the late war, the war which was to put an end to all war. The new race in armaments between America, Great Britain, Japan, and France, is making the working classes think of the terrible slaughter that will ensue when the signal for the attack is given. The capitalist class, through the medium of its Press, will talk of patriotism, the fight for right and so forth, and once again they believe that the masses will be gulled by their talk of democracy, Christianity, etc. We trust that the International will be solidified by then, as a means of avoiding such a catastrophe as happened in August, 1914. The placing of a Cenotaph in so many towns and villages in honour of the dead, is, at the present moment, being exploited by the capitalist class. What a mockery, comrades! After four years of war, and all the misery and poverty it wrought to thousands of homes, the capitalist class is busy preparing for the next.

More Production Stunt.

The great cry by some of the official Labour leaders of the past, is that of more production. Very likely, by to-day, Messrs. Brace, Brownlie and Clynes, etc., see the folly of such advocacy. With the over-production of boots at Northampton, in the textile trade at Bradford, and many other trades too numerous to mention, the more production stunt becomes a complete fallacy. The spectre of unemployment is rampant throughout the country. Thousands upon thousands are workless, and the Government merely looks on; naturally so, they are the capitalists. Such is the Capitalist System: profits first, human life afterwards. We refer the reader to that very able pamphlet "Increased Prduction," by George Dagger, which gives the lie direct to the more production stunt.

Modern Science.

On Sunday evening, December 19th, a very interesting lecture was held at the Workmen's Hall, Ogmore Vale, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. The subject, "Some Wonders of Modern Science," was delivered by the Rev. W. G. Harvey, F.R.G.S., of London, in a very able and delightful manner. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and many inventions, such as Wireless Telegraphy, Telephony, and the Octophon, an instrument by which the blind may read through a certain organ in the ear—a wonderful invention—was described by the aid of diagrams, etc., which was thoroughly appreciated by the audience. The lecturer also showed the train of the future which is being invented by a scientist in Paris, the speed will be at the rate of 200 miles per hour. With such inventions now being developed in modern science, we wonder what form the next war will take? Is it to be Science for Science' sake or is it to be Science for the uplifting of humanity? Which?

RUSSIA WANTS PEACE.

The Congress of the Moscow Government Soviets has opened in Moscow. Of 500 delegates, 450 are Communists. At the first session, Trotsky reported on the international situation. He emphasised that Soviet Russia continued to seek peace, but has no guarantee against the possibility of further attacks. Therefore Russia does not intend completely to disarm. But the entire machinery of the military administration will be reduced to the minimum, and all the liberated forces turned to work in the economic field. This brings the question of the systematic mobilation of industry to the front, and the "Council of Labour and Defence" will be transformed from a military council into a permanent economic conference. He declared that it was necessary to create a situation where every peasant and worker shall feel, not the hired servant, but the master of the Soviet State.

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To Communist Party Funds.

Manchester Comrades, 10/-; Hull Comrades, 12/4.

Decree of the Soviet Government *re* Concessions.

More than a year ago, the Council of People's Commissaries raised the question of attracting the technical forces and material means of industrially developed countries for the purpose both of restoring Russia as one of the fundamental bases of raw material for world-production and of developing her industries shattered by the World War.

Although compelled, in the course of three years, to wage an armed struggle against its enemies, the Soviet Republic has nevertheless achieved important results in its work to restore the ruined industries, with its own efforts and means. But this process of restoring the productive forces of Russia, and, consequently, of the entire world economy, may be considerably accelerated by attracting foreign states, and communal institutions, private enterprises, joint stock companies, co-operatives and labour organisations of other countries to the business of developing and working the natural riches of Russia. The acute shortage of raw materials, coupled with an abundance of free capital in some of the European countries and, especially in the United States of America, has been insistingly urging foreign capital to turn to us with concrete proposals about investments in the exploitation of the natural riches of Soviet Russia on certain conditions.

A number of definite proposals have now been made to us as to the granting of forest and land concessions (such as the proposition concerning a concession for tractor tillage of free ploughing ground), and as to the organisation of different industrial undertakings.

With the object of giving wide application to these means of restoring and developing the productive forces of the Republic and of world production, the Council of the People's Commissaries determined to make public the following economic and legal conditions of concessions and to enumerate the objects of concessions which may be granted to solid foreign industrial companies and organisations deserving confidence.

1. The concessionaire will be allowed a share in the production, as provided by the contract, with a right to export same abroad.

2. In cases, where special technical improvements will be introduced on a large scale, the concessionaire will be granted trading privileges (as the supply of machines, special contracts for large orders, etc.).

3. In accordance with the nature and conditions of the concession, long term concessions will be granted to secure the full compensation to the concessionaire for his risk and for the technical equipment invested in the concession.

4. The Government of the Soviet Republic guarantees that the property invested by the concessionaire in the enterprise will not be liable to nationalisation, confiscation, or requisition.

5. The concessionaire will be granted the right to engage workers and officials for his enterprises on the territory of the Soviet Republic, on condition that he will observe the laws of the Republic concerning labour, or a special contract would be entered into, guaranteeing the workers and officials certain conditions and protecting their lives and health.

6. The Government of the Soviet Republic guarantees the concessionaire against any one-sided modification of conditions of concessions by regulations and decrees of the Government.

President of the Council of People's Commissaries: V. ULIANOV (LENIN).

Head of Department:

BONTSH-BRUYEVITSH.

Secretary:

L. FOTIEVA.

Moscow, Kremlin,

November 28rd, 1920.

Sovietism and the Workers.

By T. ISLWYN NICHOLAS, Gen. Sec. I.P.S.M. (B.S.T.I.)

The economic emancipation of the Russian workers in November, 1917, constitutes one of the greatest achievements in human history. All sincere people throughout the world are amazed at the strength and stability of the ever-tottering Soviet Government of Russia. To-day the Soviet form of Government is the best organised in the world. The Red Flag of Sovietism flies over the largest country in the world. Out of the disorder left through hundreds of years of the rule of the Czars and continual wars, the Bolshevists established order on the railroads, in the factory, on the front and in the villages through the dictatorship of the proletariat. First of all, before considering the accomplishments of Sovietism, it will be necessary to clearly understand what Sovietism is. In Russia there exists a Socialist Industrial Republic which is the first government of the working class in the world, owned by the workers and for the workers. It is expressed in the Soviets or Councils. A Soviet is formed by election in the shops and unions instead of the so-called democratic method of electing men at the polls. Every five hundred workers in a munition factory select a delegate. The shoe factory elects a delegate, as do the clothing shops, the brick yards, and all the other industries which happen to be in that city. All the other unions do likewise. The same principle applies to the regiments of soldiers and the sailors also elect their delegates, likewise the teachers, the clerks, and others who are organised. One of the stock arguments of the Social-Democrats is that everyone under Sovietism is not allowed to vote. Now this is more or less true at the present time. The exploiters of labour, idle people living off interest, members of the Czar's family, criminals, and the insane are not allowed to vote in Russia. The Socialist slogan of Sovietism is that "he who does not work, neither shall he vote." Soon everyone in Russia will become workers, and that means that every man and woman over eighteen years of age will have the right to vote. The latest facts show that even now 95 per cent. in Russia can vote. The Russian people have a direct control over their delegates to the Soviets. When they desire to instruct or elect a delegate, they blow the factory whistle and have a meeting. Then they instruct their delegate what they wish. If the delegate does not act in accordance with their wishes, he is recalled at once and another is elected in his stead. In the great gathering of workmen, peasants, soldiers and sailors known as the All-Russian Assembly, the delegates decide all great public questions like war, peace, land, commerce, etc. When it adjourns, it leaves behind an Executive Committee of about 250 members. The duties of this Executive Committee is to pass laws. Its chief duty is to appoint, dismiss, and control the Council of People's Commissars, a similar body to our Cabinet; the difference between these two bodies is that our Cabinet is elected by the Premier, whilst the Russian Council of People's Commissars are elected by the people. Sovietism is a government from the bottom upwards! Let us consider for a moment the advantages of the Soviet form of government over Parliament. A Soviet delegate comes from a shop or union who meet regularly. It has in itself a natural unity. An M.P. (Mother's Pet) represents all sorts of people, irrespective of their work, who meet at the polls every five or six years; there is no other bond between them. An M.P. has no natural connection with his people, whilst a Soviet representative is continuously in touch with the people he represents. Take our Parliament with its financiers, lawyers and politicians, what do they know of the people's needs and wants; how can they pass laws about mines when they have no knowledge of mining? The Soviets are elected by occupations. They are full of miners who know mines; machinists who know machines; peasants who know the land; teachers who know children and education. In fact, the Soviet is a centre for the transaction of business by men who know their business. Parliament is full of men who play the horrible game of party politics. Let us now turn our thoughts to the accomplishments of the Soviet Government. Immediately the workers got into power they nationalised all the natural resources: the forests, mines, waterways, etc. They gave the peasants the land. Each family was given as much land as it could manage. This won the support of the peasants for the Soviets. They organised one of the finest armies in the world—an army that, it is said, has been "fighting on its ideals and not on its belly." The old Secret Treaties were swept into the "ash barrel of history." The most important thing of all is that they gave the shops, mines and factories to the workers. Some of them were owned by the State; others came directly under workmen's control. That is, a committee elected by the workmen take part in the management of the plant. "I mean by control," said Trotsky, "that we will see to it that the factory is run not from the point of view of private profit, but from the point of view of the social welfare."

When the workers took control they encountered many unseen difficulties owing to lack of experience and of technical skill. Under the rule of Sovietism womanhood has for the first time come and taken its position in society. The women have the same political, economical and social rights as men. The Soviet Government provides free care for all women *sixteen weeks before, while, and after they become mothers.* In Russia women have the same rights as men.

"Together men and women were slaves, now together they are free."

The reader may ask is there great happiness in Russia? No; there is cold, hunger and pestilence there at present; little babies have died from lack of milk in Moscow and Petrograd. Why, is the Soviet blamed in Russia? No, gentle reader, they know and we know that the murderous blockade enforced by British Prussians and their Allies upon Russia is directly responsible for the above. We know to-day that the people of Russia desire the Soviet form of Government because it is the only Government that has shown any strength, and the only one that the people have fought for, aye, and died for. No Government could stand against the powers that be without the support of the masses! When the Soviets were established the upper classes gave huge sums of money to the old officials, and to bank clerks, to stop work. The reactionaries hoped to starve the people into submission. A great Russian capitalist said: "The bony hand of hunger will clutch the people by the throat and bring them to their senses." But the Soviets brought good. Then they tried to get the people drunk in order that they would loot, burn, and kill. It was called the wine-programme. They would suddenly open up hidden wine-cellars and give everybody as much wine as they could drink. Again the Soviets stopped this by destroying 400 such cellars and pumping the wine out into the canals. Russia has been able to defeat all its enemies through the fine response of the workers in defence of Communism. In conclusion, a word of explanation regarding the bogey of the Yellow gutter-press in this country. Here we call it preserving law and order. It is called the Red Terror. Well, indeed, may it be terror to those who try to kill a member of the Soviet Government or those who plot for the overthrow of Sovietism. If they are caught they are tried before a revolutionary tribunal, and, if found guilty, they are imprisoned or executed. If innocent he is released. That is the bogey of the Press. That, then, is a short outline of the meaning of Sovietism and what it has accomplished for the workers in Russia in three and a half years under abnormal conditions. They have been fighting a defensive war with the Allies. Why? Fellow workers, they have overthrown the God of Capitalism—private property. This is their only god—their sacred god. When their god is touched they go mad, and in their madness they know no religion, no morality, no laws, no country and nothing except the protection of their bloody god! Hence the Russian intervention, Comrades of the working-class! How can we help our Russian comrades? Is it by passing resolutions? No, but by making a revolution to establish the Dictatorship of the Proletariat instead of Capitalist Dictatorship, that is responsible for passing savage sentences on Comrades Pankhurst and Malone in Britain. The best way to prevent the present economic blockade on Russia is by uniting our forces and hastening the accomplishment of the World Revolution.

Comrades! The blood of your class calls you to action!

Hail, the World Revolution!

Long live the Red International!

DEAR COMRADES,—

We want your help in working a scheme to increase the circulation of the *Workers' Dreadnought*

We want you to take an extra copy every week for a month (or more if possible), and to undertake to send it to somebody whom you think likely to become a regular subscriber and supporter of the paper. If you will send us 1/- only, with the name and address of the person to whom you wish the paper to be sent, we will guarantee to send it for four weeks. At the end of that time, it would further the scheme considerably, if the donor of the copies would write and ask the recipient to become a regular subscriber.

We will publish the names of those who take part in the scheme.

Yours fraternally,
NORAH L. SMYTH.

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The Unemployed.

Down Bond Street, every day, there goes a procession of the unemployed. They carry red banners and a band of drums marches at the head. Its sound is dismal and ominous. The marchers, cold, ill-fed and ill-clad, look sadder and withal more terrible beside the well-dressed shop windows, filled with gorgeous clothing, and buyers with their furs and motors.

A menace to all this gilded show comes with this shabby procession. One knows that the mounted policemen riding before and behind them, are not provided to clear the way for the marching men amongst the carriages and motors, but to protect the public from the workless men.

The Communist Party does not lead this procession of the unemployed that goes down Bond Street. It will do so presently, and the sooner that day comes the better. Then the Red Flags of the marchers will bear appropriate mottoes. Then there will a force and a purpose in their steps, that to-day are lagging with dumb and hopeless desperation.

What are the organisers of the *Dreadnought* doing, comrades, that no one ever goes with the daily unemployed to sell the paper?

The army of the unemployed is growing: it comprises both men and women, though we only see men in the processions, but some day the unemployed women of Britain may be as famous for their deeds as the women of Versailles.

Mild Liberal politicians, who would like their Party to be in power in place of Lloyd George's Coalition, tell us that British workers are unemployed, because Britain lacks markets in which to sell her goods!

The workers know only too well that there is a British market starving for lack of goods that always goes unsupplied. But they have not yet demanded that they shall satisfy their needs out of Britain's surplus manufactures. Some day they will refuse to be hungry and cold, whilst shops and warehouses bulge with the things they lack. "Business is bad," say the shopkeeper and manufacturers, "No one will buy from us." There is such a great unsupplied demand amongst them for customers; the people pine for the lack of the goods that threaten to grow mouldy and moth-eaten. One of the Sunday pictorial capitalist papers (perhaps to stimulate trade), last week published the portrait of a certain rich woman, because she had bought a sable coat for £7,000. That was her sole claim to public recognition!

The members of the Government claim to be doing great things for the unemployed. Dr. Macnamara, Minister for Labour, writes to a magazine run by workless ex-soldiers, claiming great credit for the Government's treatment of the unemployed.

Every other kind of politician is trying to make capital out of the workless man.

The *Daily Herald* is publishing 'a leaflet by George Lansbury, explaining to the unemployed their "legal rights" and urging them to *go to the Guardians*.

That is the old stunt, in which much faith has been placed by reformers, but the workers have never taken kindly to it. They probably realise that the hope of getting anything from the Guardians is a very lean one.

The Guardians might be compelled to keep from actual starvation the masses of the unemployed, but maintenance or wages at a decent level will never be wrung out of the Poor Law Boards.

We advise the unemployed to look for salvation, not backward to the old legislation of the past, but forward—forward to a change of Government—forward to a change of system.

But meantime, the unemployed should not starve in a land of plenty, where there is food, where there is warmth and shelter; they should insist on getting an ample share of it.

The capitalist Coalition Government under Lloyd George, has spent millions of money and masses of material in fighting Soviet Russia, and in withholding independence from Ireland. The same Government neglects the unemployed.

The Government should be turned out. J. R. Clynes, speaking at Batley, on December 19th, said, that if the Government could not cure unemployment, it should resign.

But Clynes and the other Labour Members of Parliament, are helping to maintain the Government in office. They are constantly reinforcing it by their votes in the House of Commons. They are constantly helping the Government to overcome its difficulties with dissatisfied workers outside.

On the vote for the Estimates for the Ministry of Food, the Government was saved from defeat by the vote of the Labour Party.

The Labour Party's excuse was that the Ministry of Food had protected the workers from the profiteer.

Do you think that is true? Compare the pre-war food prices and those obtaining now!

The fact of the matter is that the British Ministry of Food, like the similar Ministries set up during the war in other countries, was merely a device for making the workers think that something is being done for them, whilst the International capitalist sharks took advantage of the war scarcity and increased consumption by the men in the Army, to force prices as high as possible.

The first care of the Ministry of Food was always to see that no sop thrown to the workers in the direction of limiting prices, should prevent the capitalists from making what they consder legitimate profits.

But whatever the Food Ministry may have done, it is the duty of the Labour Party to do what it can to turn out the Government now. And since the declared object of the Labour Party is to secure a Labour Government, the Labour Party ought to fight to secure the power.

The Labour politicians make no attempt to do that.

Why?

They are afraid to tackle the present desperate problems facing the Government, which are:—

> Unemployment and depressed trade and high prices; Civil war in Ireland; monstrous war debts, unprecedented taxation; a swollen Army and Navy; a growing spirit of unrest amongst the working-class; and a growing desire of militant capitalism to come out and fight with Labour.

It is all too big for the comfortable politicians of the Labour Party. They prefer to remain snugly in opposition without responsibility.

Meanwhile, the workers, and especially the unemployed are left to suffer.

My advice to every unemployed man and woman is to pay a visit to the House of Commons, and get a Member of the Labour Party to provide a dinner in the "best Club in London"—the dining room of the House of Commons.

A talk over the table, and the necessity of sharing some of the £400 a year with an unfortunate fellow-worker might bring the situation a little more clearly home to our Labour Party Members of Parliament.

But remember, workless men and women, that we shall never see the last of unemployment till the workers' Soviets have arisen in Britain, and Communism has been established in our land.

RICHARD KEIR.

Gore Brook Hall, Gorton.

Comrades,—After hearing the report of the Cardiff Conference, the above group have arrived at the opinion that sections of our Party are prepared to accept Parliamentary Action, and, as a result, join the United Communist Party.

We would like it to be clearly understood that the above named group have analysed the problem thoroughly. We have for our object common ownership of the means of life—Communism. With our object ever in view, we have acted in what we claim to be the speediest way of attaining that object We do not agree with the statement "That it is in the interests of Communism that we should eat our programme" and become a party to parliamentary action. In order to create no misunderstanding whatever, let us state: That we know that it is necessary to adapt ourselves to changing conditions and that to set up rigid doctrines, without taking any considerations of developments, is unscientific and contradictory to the interests of Communism.

Having taken these facts into consideration along with the situation of our comrades in Russia, and the proletarian movement in general, we feel certain that the Third International has made a mistake in demanding that Parliamentary Action should be a part of the programme for this country. We claim that we (workers of this country) are capable of judging as to whether Parliament can aid us in our march to Communism. It is not necessary for the edification of our Comrade Lenin to analyse here the Capitalist State, seeing that his "State and Revolution" has covered this question. There seems to be no difference between us as to the functions of the State and the need for destroying it. The difference between us is as to whether the State can be used, or whether by going to Parliament we can accelerate the forces of Revolution. When discussing these differences it must be relative to the need for revolution in this country.

We are well aware that the Parliamentary Communists will claim that their action will be to smash Parliament, but we must here state that we do not give a number off them credit for the sincerity of this statement. Parliament still holds out the offer of £400 and upwards per year. To the other section of "Parliamentary users," who may be quite honest, we must here state that, owing to giving very little of their time to understanding the working class, they look for salvation to Parliament. They hold ideas relating to times that have gone, and these ideas still prevail in their mind; the material conditions from which they arose have passed away. The result of this confusion is the same, whether it arises from ignorance or dishonesty. We cannot progress by sincerity alone, it requires much more (despite what George Lansbury says). Before concluding, we desire to state that our congratulations go out to our Russian Comrades in their gallant fight, and success against the armies of Capitalism. We wish to assure them that we shall carry on the fight against the enemy; and, like ourselves, there are in all countries groups who realise that Parliaments cannot be used in the interests of the Revolution. These lines may come in contact with our Russian comrades, who by this time must realise that, turning away from Parliamentary Action in the various countries, and the position we have been forced to take up as against the demand of the Third International (and, as far as we understand the Theses, it is a demand) for participation in Parliament, we claim that this confuses the masses of the people and plays the game of the Capitalist. Just a word to the various branches: The above Group would like the opinion of your branch or request you to correspond with us, if still agreeing with our programme of Non-Parliamentary Action.—Yours in the fight for Communism,

THE GORTON BRANCH.

Christmas in Your Own Home.

Step this Way!

By C. B. JIMACK-WARWICK.

Christmas comes but once a year—— well, what of it? You pagan wage-slaves want to celebrate the pagan festive season in the best way possible. Naturally, you like to have the festivities at home. But you belong to the class which hasn't any home. Aye, you *may* live in a house, all alone with your spouse, and your family, but you are only there while you pay, continually and regularly, the landlord's agent every time he comes round for the rent, and he *does* come mighty often. But in these dark days, when many are houseless, homeless, and bossless, you cannot hold festive merriment as you would desire—indeed, as you have a right.

The Rotten Core of Capitalism.

The muddy streets and gloomy skies that greet us so splashfully these wage-less slave days, are only too symbolical of the rotten condition of things, emanating from, and in the rotten core of Capitalism. Everywhere, we workers are worse off than rabbits, feed worse than pigs, and endure shelters worse than dogs. It's all very well to say we are having houses built. So we are! And what barracks some of them turn out to be; at the present rate we shall probably build a million houses in a million years! Take London alone, for example. London's need for houses is estimated at 97,000 within the next two years. The total in the course of construction to-day is 9,296! Even if the building itself was sure, the blesséd rents affixed to the houses are absolutely prohibitive to ordinary proletarians. Let me quote from that enlightened rag of the Cocoa Press, the *Star* (how many Dubb-wagons are hitched to thee, O Stellar?) of December 1st. Now, Lambeth is having "houses" built just now as flats or "mansions in the sky"; after the beautiful Brady Street plan, I suppose. Lambeth County Council wants these flats for "flats" like you and me, Henry, to be rented at from 16s. 4d. to 19s.5d. per week. That's bad enough, sure. Along comes the Fresh Air Fiends (I mean the Ministry of Health), who demand that the rents shall be from 17s. 2d. to £1 0s. 8d. Why?—— ask me!

From the same paper I would draw attention to the following luminant. It is a court case. A magistrate is told to castigato. He, after doing a few minutes on the cogitate, simply daren't. It is in reference to the lowly lot of one Ex-Hero. He, and his wife, and six children, *live in one room* at a place over in West Ham. They *live* there! The local branch of officialdom did some good work in finding that their condition was unhealthy in every way, but they, being reformers without constructive brains, turned on the negative tap alone and brought in a case of overcrowding, asking for an ejectment order. The magistrate utilised a legal loophole, and refused to grant the order, sanely remarking that if he "strictly granted ejectment in every case of overcrowding, nearly every street in West Ham would have families sitting on the curb." Quite right. It would be a nice merry sort of Christmas for them; it *will* be for all the overcrowded prolees for that matter (I *don't* think)!

"A Merry Xmas."

A merry Christmas, indeed! On December 3rd there were 8,430 scarlet fever and diphtheria patients in twelve London hospitals—result of overcrowding. What do *you* say? The *System* is wrong *all the time.* I would keep on pointing that out until you'd fain heave something at my curly pate. But it's true. It's obvious, but, like many obvious things, it is a case of familiarity being married to mental myopia, or mind-blindness, whose child is stunted apathy.

Let us analyse *these* figures. My authority in this matter is "The Lancet," an important, well-informed organ of the medical profession. "The Lancet," on November 18th, published a chart, the figures of which show expressively the terrible connection between disease and overcrowding, for the highest percentages in the worst diseases are recorded from the most populous, the most proletarian, the slummiest districts. The figures all refer to London in this case. But the conditions are common to the thickly populated cesspools in all cities. Some districts are worse off, probably through a difference in the atmospheric pollution, accentuated by different types of commodity which, in the course of production, cause poisons in and out of the factory atmosphere, such as the manufacture of chemicals, rubber goods, etc. The figures below should speak for themselves. They are from October statistics. Bracketed figures refer to district populations :—

Hackney (216,736): Scarlet fever, 178; diphtheria, 179.

Islington (323,034): Scarlet fever, 225; diphtheria, 181.

Bethnal Green (116,085): Scarlet, 157; diphtheria, 48.

Stepney (232,506): Scarlet fever, 507; diphtheria, 58.

Poplar (153,644): Scarlet fever, 283; diphtheria, 94.

Bermondsey (124,239): Scarlet fever, 196; diphtheria, 37.

Wandsworth (333,693): Scarlet fever, 194; diphtheria, 76.

Camberwell (273,802): Scarlet fever, 212; diphtheria, 105.

In reference to atmospheric pollution, caused by smoke from factory and house chimneys to a great extent, here again the big figures come from overcrowded areas. So that we see the close inter-relationship between overcrowded dwellings, poisoned air, and the well-being of the persons concerned.

Capitalist Industry Pollutes the Air.

"The Lancet" published a report on November 20th of the Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution, showing remarkable figures from the various towns where testing stations had been set up for this purpose, proving that the air was most poisoned in the industrial areas, where the masses work (when they are hired out to the Machine), where they live, or endure, their whole unhealthy, visionless existence. For instance, Rochdale registered 29.95 (almost 30) per cent. tons of solid matter per square kilometre poisoning the air, to say nothing of gases, and other soluble acids. To come back to London, Southwark Park testing station records that the atmosphere around that district averages 15.35 in solid pollution. Parts of Manchester, St. Helens, Warrington, and other industrial hells are hardly ever lower than 30 per cent. pollution. This poisoned air the workers fill their lungs with. Naturally, consumption and other banalities are rife. Naturally, constant ill-health means a dribbling away of that bodily vitality necessary to mental activity, so the Dubbs tend to become more Dubb-ish. One would think it in capitalistic interests to look to the physical well-being of their slaves, if they'd have them efficient. But the slaves, in their ignorance, hardly value human life any more than their masters; hence, they breed and breed without the least thought on the matter as it will affect their class; so that there is always ready for cheap exploitation a large surplus army of younger slaves, not so healthy as they should be, but still healthier, potentially more efficient, than their parents on the industrial scrap-heap. The masses in the strife are sore-minded with misery, a misery that creates a discontent they ill-understand. That discontent we Communists have to attempt to stimulate, to educate into consciousness, so that light will come to the minds of those miserable ones asking the why and wherefore of their misery. Unfortunately, this misery breeds reaction in the shape of a natural desire of forgetfulness. So we get in slums and in industrial areas the feature of the public house vending bad beer drunk by the miserable in order to obtain a modicum of joy. One poison breeds another. *And the poisons are profitable. Therefore they persist.* Just as it is *profitable* to run industry with cheap labour-slaves, so it is *profitable* to house the slaves in miserable dwellings, and *unprofitable* to make Capitalism healthy, as some Democrats desire. Therefore the Press, the Alcoholic and the Pulpit Poisons will be kept going, *because the ignorance of the wage-slave is profitable to the Master Class.* A few instances, for this year, will suffice to show the enormous profits made out of working-class misery drowned after industrial slavery. Ansell's Brewery made £120,780 this year (£118,968 last year); Ashby's Staines Brewery made £18,719 this year; the Empress Brewery Company made £48,318; Hall's Oxford Brewery Co. made £41,138; Bentley's Yorkshire Brewery, £91,761 (nearly £4,000 more than last year); Stretton's Derby Brewery, £47,534 (and there are hundreds of such companies). Outside a job in the Cabinet, it is probably one of the best paying games!

Well, whatever we think of this or that, it is no use merely negatively grumbling without positively getting a move on. Realisation of the enormity of ignorance amongst the masses should not crush the activities of the understanding Communist propagandist. Everyone is recognising the rottenness of conditions. The System itself is breaking up. Only last week-end the Yellow Press reluctantly gave details of a great slump following what they called "war-inflation of prices." This means the break-up of small, feeble firms, but not so, as yet, the combines and their ilk; *they* are strongly class-organised, recognise dangers ahead, and are preparing to defend their class-interests. We have to point out to the employed, and to the half-million unemployed slaves, the reason for starvation and misery, and the Communist way out; we have to point out that all forms of charity (for instance, the L.C.C. give over seventeen thousand free meals weekly) are merely palliatives in order to pacify the unemployed. Another instance, common enough: A Mr. P. Williams, a director of the P. & O. Steamship Navigation Co. recently went to Heaven. As he couldn't take his wealth with him, he left behind £168,000 —out of which he left £20,000 *to charity.* Well, these gifts only scratch the mud over the sore conditions, and change them not to healthiness. Our propagandist purpose is iconoclastic, to break gods, to scatter illusions and ignorance, and to advance the cause of libertarian Communism. Only then can we say: "A Merry Christmas," and know that the festivity, if retained, shall be a truly enjoyable one. Step this way!

To the Technical Engineers of all Countries.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—The year following the October Revolution, was marked by the sabotage of the Russian intellectuals. Societies such as those of doctors, teachers, consulting engineers, etc., took part in this sabotage in every way, hindering the work of the Soviet Government. Now, however, after the lapse of three years, we see these people marching side by side with the workers. The subjoined appeal issued by the Engineer's section of the Industrial Union of Transport Workers is an example of the radical change which has set in, in the minds of the Russian *intelligentzia*. It is to be noted that this manifesto is signed by Professor Greduskul, formerly leading member of the Executive Committee of the Cadet Party and Vice-President of the Second Imperial Duma.

The bourgeois and social-patriotic Press who have sold their literary honour for francs and pounds, is full of insinuations about Soviet Russia. To please their masters, they represent the Soviet Republic as a country where chaos and sanguinary arbitrariness reign supreme, where peaceful citizens are killed without trial, where the centres of culture and education are destroyed, the intellectuals persecuted, and the economic resources of Russia senselessly wasted. All this, however, is most conclusively refuted by the great self-sacrifice and love with which the masses of the Russian people maintain their Socialist rights; by the great educational work carried through by the emancipated workers, the stamping out of illiteracy in the backward country, the dozens of new universities and institutes being opened, and by the light of knowledge and education which the Soviet movement is introducing even in the remotest Kalmick villages.

The sympathies of all the better elements of humanity for Soviet Russia continue to grow. H. G. Wells, Anatole France, Forel, Henry Barbusse, the late Jack London, and Professor Timiriaseff, the most talented people of our time, are our friends or our adherents. Gradually, not only the representatives of art and letters, but also of science, are coming over to our side; it is because the vitality of Communism is so great and the economic work carried through by the Soviet Government is so imposing. The State distribution of commodities which turns the State into an enormous labour co-operative society saves us from starvation under the most unfavourable conditions. The systematic trustification of Russian industry, which abolishes chaos and competition in production, inspires us with the unshakable conviction that the end of the severe struggle will signify the beginning of the grandest unfolding and development of the Russian State industries. It goes without saying that we could not attain the successes standing to our credit if it were true that Soviet Russia is 'shooting down professors and hanging engineers." On the contrary, we owe our successes to the fact that people with knowledge, who are prepared to work honestly, are placed in such material conditions as will secure them a peaceful activity free of domestic cares and will allow them full scope for scientific initiative. At the instance of the representatives of Russian science, a number of scientific and educational organisations, technical societies, and laboratories have been established.

The Soviet Government is doing away with the system of favouritism, official servility and flattery, career hunting, intrigues, etc. Now the door is wide open for every energetic worker of science, and there is no need for one to depend on influential connections.

Imperialism, which is the torture of the masses of the people, compels modern technique to serve the purposes of destruction of man by man and directs the creative and inventive faculties of the engineers to the shedding of human blood. Our activity, which may turn our earth into an industrial hive of buzzing machines engaged in useful production, is now diverted to its mutilation and destruction. Our science is corrupted, and becomes destructive: armoured trains, torpedo boats, ammunition factories, military aeroplanes, dynamite on which gluttonous Imperialism feeds—half the guilt for all this falls on us, engineers. Some of us have sold our professional conscience for comforts of life. others, out of fear, obediently carried out the murderous orders. The results are cemeteries as large as whole countries.

Only the Soviet movement will liberate science from the necessity of serving criminal designs. The victorious proletariat leads us into a sphere of useful social production, into wide regions of peaceful conquests of the human mind.

Capitalist oppression has made technical science not only unmoral, but has brought it to stagnation and degeneration. Shutting out the wide field of invention, it drives our powerful work into the small channels of refining and perfecting the trifles of Capitalism. The efforts of the engineers are not directed to the erection of great, hygienic proletarian centres, but to serving the appetites of High Society for luxury —and this is the sign of decline.

The Russian engineers were at one time the enemies of the proletarian revolution. They were in error. Events have proved to them the righteousness of the cause of the revolutionary workers. Now the Russian engineers have become convinced of the fruitfulness of the economic measures of the Soviet Government, and are now glad to contribute their share of work to the social endeavours.

Engineers' sections have been formed in the large industrial unions of Russia. They do not pursue narrow professional interests; these are sufficiently well looked after by the Soviet Government. Their main aim is to unite closely the industrial body of manual and intellectual labour by distributing the highly skilled human labour in the given industry and carrying out scientific and practical measures on a large scale. Among others, the engineers of the Russian Riverside Workers' Union formed a section which is devoting much energy and time to the spreading of scientific education among the workers, by organising lectures, conversations, exhibitions, excursions, etc. The work of an engineer is immeasurably more pleasant and fruitful when under his guidance are people who work with enthusiasm inspired by consciousness and knowledge.

The Soviet system is instilling this consciousness into the masses, and thus helps us in our work.

Comrades, the capitalist order compels you to be the slavedrivers of hordes of factory workers, compels you to be their executioners. A wall of estrangement is artificially erected between you and them. The long-suffering workers have lost patience. The workers are preparing for the revolutionary storm. Like dynamite opening for itself the shortest way through a rock, the workers open their shortest historical Soviet road towards a happy state of society.

Follow our example; approach the working class in daily labour. Have no fear of the proletariat. Do not hinder their revolutionary work. The proletariat is a class filled with generosity, humanity, inexhaustible energy, and with the greatest possibilities. Do not shut yourself up in close reactionary caste corporations. Join in the fruitful work of the trade unions like friends; you will be hailed with joy and greetings. Enlighten them with science. Follow the revolutionary class in politics.

We, the Russian engineers, trust in the power of the proletarian revolution, and we shall march hand in hand with the workers along the same Soviet path.

The proletariat of the brain and the proletariat of manual labour are brothers. The union of the mighty hand and of the clear head is unconquerable. It will approximate the realisation of Communism, which comes with mechanical inevitableness to take the place of the decayed capitalist order, and will establish the highest and most perfect form of production and unchain science and morals—for the attainment of which the best part of humanity lives and dies.

On behalf of the Engineer's Section
of the Transport Workers' Union.
NIKOZOVSKY, *Chairman.*
PROFESSOR GREDESKUL *Secretary.*

To the COMMUNIST PARTY (B.S.T.I.)

Comrades,—

We, the Executive Committee of the above organisation feel that, in the interests of the growth of a Young Communist Movement in this country, we are in duty bound to approach you, the adult revolutionary, political, and industrial organisations, and to appeal to you to come to the instant assistance of the International Proletarian Schools.

Relying on your moral sense of responsibility for the Young Movement of Britain, we ask you to seriously consider our appeal and to tender us the utmost assistance in your power.

The Proletarian Schools, first inaugurated in 1918 by Tom Anderson, have in the small space of two years, developed to considerable dimensions, so that we now number 24 schools on our roll. In the building of our organisation, we, of necessity, published a great deal of literature and established an official organ, namely the *Red Dawn*.

The effect and extent of our work can be gauged by the repeated attacks of such organisations as the "People's League" and the "British Empire League," and by the venomed and hysterical outbursts of the capitalist Press against us.

Due to the peculiar structure of our organisation, we have been forced, in the past, to rely on the moral and financial support of small groups of enthusiasts throughout the country. In the face of our financial responsibility, such support become totally inadequate.

We now appeal to you the E.C. of the Communist Party, B.S.T.I., to assist us.

We ask that at your public meetings throughout the country you draw to the notice of your audiences. the existence and work of the International Proletarian Schools; and where favourable, that you take a collection on our behalf, and that at all times you endeavour to assist the "Young Communist International" in their work of organising the "Communist Youth of the World."

Comrades! Recognising, as you will, the importance of the Young Communist Movement, we feel, that our appeal to you will be not be in vain.

Trusting in your sense of responsibility for the safety of the young proletarian organisations, we eagerly await your reply.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

Fraternally yours,
ISLWYN NICHOLAS.
(Gen. Secy.)

All monies to be sent *direct* to the Treasurer:
F. DUNMORE,
262, Duke Street,
Glasgow.

INCREASE OF WEALTH.

In the article, "Our National Prosperity," which appeared in our last issue on page 2, column 2, the paragraph entitled "Increase of Wealth" should read:—

"In 1812 the national wealth of this country, in shipping, railways, merchandise, houses and furniture was estimated at £450,000,000. In 1888 the total for these items had increased to £2,969,000,000, and in 1904 this total had increased to £3,790,000,000.

"In his well-known work, "Riches and Poverty," Sir L. Chiozza Money estimates the total national wealth of the United Kingdom at £11,413,000,000. . . . "

BIG UNIONISM.

On Tuesday, a step was taken which may lead to the creation of the largest trade union in the world. Representatives of the following unions approved a scheme of amalgamation:—

National Union of General Workers.
Workers' Union.
Municipal Employees' Association.
National Amalgamated Union of Labour.

The latest available figures give the membership of the Workers' Union as 550,000, the National Amalgamated Union of Labour 180,000, Municipal Employees' 80,000, and the National Union of General Workers 489,000.

BETWEEN OURSELVES. By L. A. MOTLER.

"Don't you think it's about time the Labour Party did something for the unemployed?" asked Casey of Mac, as the latter fetched in his cylinder to the Plate Room.

Casey considered the Labour Party some sort of Socialists who were out to do something for the workers—instead of doing them, as has proved the case—and Mac being a "sort of Socialist" himself, Casey naturally put his question in what he considered the proper quarter.

"Can't say," said Mac, gruffly.

"Lost a sixpence and found a tanner?" asked Young Bert.

"Here, kid, shut up!" said Jack. "Don't you know better than to speak out of your turn"

Young Bert made inarticulate noises, which Jack took as some reflection on himself, so he promptly chased him out of the room.

"Call yourself a Socialist," continued Casey, addressing Mac, "and don't know what your own Party is up to."

"I don't say the Labour Party is a Socialist Party, do I," asked Mac, banging the cylinder on the bench.

"Some thing, isn't it?" put in Jack.

"About the same thing as black is yellow," said Mac, who seemed determined to say as little as possible and in as fierce a tone as possible.

Just then Young Bert peeped round the doorway, and with one eye on Jack, bellowed out that Henry had found a jack-knife, and was looking around for an owner.

"If it's a jack-knife," said Casey, "I guess somebody's getting at you, Jack." And he roared at his own joke, which nobody else saw.

"Say, you kid," shouted Jack, "clear out before you get a mallet where the shoemaker dropped his last. Ain't you sure it's a boy-scout's knife you pinched from your troop and are too proud to own up to?"

Mac went to the door and came back with the knife, which he carefully looked over to see if any parts were missing and put in his pocket. When he spoke next, his tone was visibly brightened, as Jack remarked to Old James the "gaffer."

Casey was bent on "having it out" with Mac, so he put in a few more words about the Labour Party.

"If you don't know what a Socialist is," said Mac, "why don't you read Socialist papers?"

"What? Me?" asked Casey, aghast.

"Why not?" asked Mac. "You don't read the *Church Times* for the latest form in football, do you?"

"Tell us something new," remarked Casey. "We know all them Socialist arguments and what would happen if a capitalist was cast away on a desert island. There ain't no desert islands nowadays. Get a move on, Mac, and wake up, as the Prince of Wales says."

"What will they do when they get a Labour Government?" asked Jack. "Same old Lloyd George game, I bet."

Jack was astonished when Mac said he agreed. He was asked to explain himself, being a Socialist, and yet "agin' the good old Labour Party."

"Well, it's like this," began Mac. "What the Socialists, or more properly, the Communists want—and I'm a Communist myself—is to change the order of things and have all goods for use instead of for profit. Got me?"

"Well," said Jack, "can't say as I do. What about tram tickets which we print? Do you mean to say as a conductor is to give away his tram tickets for nothing?"

"Tram tickets are different——" resumed Mac, when Casey cut him short.

"Can't say as I see it neither."

"You'll see it in a minute. Never mind tram tickets for the present. What I mean is that the British people want food, clothes and boots. So we make the food, clothes and boots—and every one gets what he wants. As the workers who make boots get free food, and the bakers get free togs, you can see they don't want any money for it. What it means is, that the workers take over the industries and run them for the benefit of all. They just take them from the capitalists."

"Which the capitalists won't take lying down," put in Jack.

"You bet," agreed Mac. "Now the Labour Party have an idea that's different. They just get into power and vote laws that put the workers in control, and it's done without a drop of blood spilt. What they call evolution, not revolution. The capitalists will then resign and let the workers run things as they damn well please."

"And emigrate to a desert island, p'raps," added Jack.

"Well, anyway, that's what the Labour Party stands for. The Communists think different. They say that the workers have got to take control, and in order to keep control, they have to learn how to protect themselves, in case the capitalists don't emigrate to that desert island of Jack's but turn up nasty."

"You mean a Red Army?"

"Why not?" asked Mac.

"Well, it won't come off," said Jack hopefully.

COMMUNIST DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

Letter from JACK TANNER.

December 11th, 1920.

Dear Comrade,—

I only got your letter yesterday, on my return to London, and am sorry I shall be unable to be present at the meeting in Trafalgar Square tomorrow, to protest against the arrests and sentences of Communists.

I hope the meeting will be a great success, and that the workers of London will realise the importance of taking a very strong line of action on these cases.

In the near future, as the class war becomes more intensified, we shall have the Governments of the capitalists increasing their persecution of all revolutionaries, and endeavouring to put out of the way those who stand for a better system of society; this is nothing more than we expect, but also we look for the workers who are suffering under the domination of Capitalism, to stand solidly behind those who speak and act on behalf of the oppressed.

Just as now the capitalists and their representatives endeavour to force us to submit to their Dictatorship, so will we, the workers, when we have overthrown the parasites, force them to submit to our Dictatorship, and prevent them from expressing counter-revolutionary ideas and from living any longer on the sweat and blood of the Proletariat.

Let the workers realise the fact, *the Class War is a WAR*; they must organise themselves as a class for the purpose of scientifically fighting our present masters, we must put into this fight more intensity, energy and hatred than we did in fighting the Central Powers on behalf of the capitalists.

Providing we show the necessary solidarity and courage, I am convinced we can not only stop such persecution, but can soon remove the class that are putting it into operation.

It is for the workers of London to show the rest of the country how they feel on these matters; the fight must be carried on to the bitter end, the end of Capitalism.

Yours for Solidarity,

JACK TANNER.

THE SMITH AND THE KING.

By EDWARD CARPENTER.

A Smith upon a summer's day
Did call upon a King;
The King exclaimed: "The Queen's away:
Can I do anything?"

"I pray you can," the Smith replied,
"I want a bit of bread."
"Why?" cried the King. The fellow sighed—
"I'm hungry, sire," he said.

"Dear me! I'll call my Chancellor,
He understands such things;
Yours claims I cannot cancel or
Deem them fit things for kings."

"Sir Chancellor, why here's a wretch
Starving—like rats or mice!"
The Chancellor replied: "I'll fetch
The First Lord in a trice."

The First Lord came, and by his look,
You might have guessed he'd shirk;
Said he: "Your Majesty's mistook,
This is the Chief Clerk's work."

The Chief Clerk said the case was bad,
But quite beyond his power,
Seeing it was the Steward had
The keys of cake and flour.

The Steward sobbed—"the keys I've lost,
Alas! but in a span,
I'll call the Smith. Why, Holy Ghost,
Here is the very man."

'Thanks!" said the Smith, O fools and vile,
Go rot upon the shelf!
The next time I am starving I'll
TAKE CARE TO HELP MYSELF."

"The Revolution To-morrow," "Anarchist-Communism in Plain English," "The New Anarchism," together with "Poems" (revolutionary and lyrical), all by L. A. MOTLER. An excellent gift. The lot 1s. 4½d. post free from SATIRE, 47, Crowndale Road, N.W. 1.

POINTED PARS.

By L. A. MOTLER.

The workers are incapable of running their own country. What would they do without masters? Be their own, of course!

* * * *

The Gr-r-reat War lasted four years—officially. The Government found five million pounds *EVERY DAY* to run the war. The same Government cannot find money for Houses or the Unemployed.

* * * *

The workers are told to keep their proper places. What they want is their places, to begin with.

FOR THE YOUNG.

Little Jack Horner
Got wheat in a corner,
Sending food-prices up high;
He put a fat sum
On the rent of a slum,
And said: "What a smart man am I!"

* * * *

There was a little sweater
And he never grew no better,
So they sent him to Par-lie-ment;
He called for his profit,
The interest of it,
And he called for his cent. per cent.

* * * *

Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw,
The donkey is braying for work;
But I reckon the donkey will alter his tune,
When he knows how the hay goes, from July to June,
To the troughs of the prize-pigs who shirk.

* * * *

It ain't no use to grumble and complain,
It's jest as cheap and easy to rejoice;
When Fat hoards all the foodstuffs and the grain,
Why, hay's my choice!

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Making Young Rebels.

Our young Comrade, T. Islwyn Nicholas, General Secretary of the International Proletarian School Movement, has a very uphill fight to found a real live Young Communist Movement for this country.

His organisation must be given every support possible by adult Communists.

Catholics make their notorious boast "Give us a child until he is six, and you can do what you like with him afterwards." We know only too well from experience that their boast is true, and that the mental fetters fastened on in our youth are very rarely shaken off with age. It is up to us, therefore, to make our rebels young, and spread those virtues of independence, disobedience, power to think and act for themselves, as early as possible.

Almost every continental country has its virile Young Communist Movement. Only in Britain are we backward, and have our noses so high in the air, dabbling with theses and *welt politik*, that we cannot see the youngster asking to be taught. This has got to stop, and we shall have to give our attention to the small detail matters, the routine work out of the limelight, without our name soaring across continents in block type. That is the test of the true Bolshevik—he can do any job, however small and however unobtrusive.

Let us then settle down to it and get on with the work of building up a Young Communist Movement. In Comrade Nicholas, the Young Movement in this country has an ardent and enthusiastic worker. Comrade Tom Anderson's work has been gigantic. But many more helpers are needed to build a movement for the young. See about starting a school at your Branch. Also, become an adult member and supporter of the young people's movement. The yearly subscription of 1/6 should be sent to T. Islwyn Nicholas, Shamrock House, Alexandria Road, Aberyswyth, Wales. It is the very least we can do to salve our consciences for past neglect of this most important branch of the International's activities.

Christmas Competition Results.

The watch was found to have stopped at 10 hours, 27 minutes, 20 seconds, and after a careful scrutiny, the winners were declared as follows:—

1st Prize.—10 hours, 27 minutes, 52 seconds.
N. S. Morley, 16, Lee Terrace, Lewisham.

2nd Prize.—10 hours, 25 minutes, 30 seconds.
J. H. Wells, 131, Newington Causeway, S.E.

3rd and 4th Prize were tied for, and divided between:—
Mark Starr, 13, Penywern Road, Earl's Court.
N. Langgaard, 4, Albemarle Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

who each put in times, 10 hours, 30 minutes.

The seller of the winning ticket was Comrade Biske of Shepherd's Bush, of the second winning ticket, Comrade E. E. Swift of Camberwell; and of the third and fourth winner's tickets, Comrades Cedar Paul of the Soho Branch, and Comrade Harold Burgess of Stonebridge Park.

Consolation Prizes were awarded to the ten next nearest times.

These were:—

W. Palmer, 16, Thomas Street, Rowbarton, Taunton; V. Richardson, 29, Scarboro' Street, Hull; C. Kendal, 27, Lower Knightly, St. David's, Exeter; Mansel John, 19, Commercial Street, Nantymoel, S. Wales; F. Kiley, 352, Commercial Road, Portsmouth; R. Wilson, 24, Milton Avenue, Stonebridge Park; A. Thomson, 63, Walcott Street, Hessle Road, Hull; H. McCabe, 16, Lee Terrace. Lewisham; Mrs. C. Holt. Glenhurst. Ripple Road, Barking; Richard Robert, 7, Upper Gyar, Ynyshire, Rhondda.

Communist Defence Council.

This question of a United Defence and Maintenance Council for persecuted Left Wingers, was considered by the Unity delegates at Manchester, who considered that they would not themselves be in order in forming a United Defence Committee then and there. They, however, instructed Comrade Inkpin, who was chosen to act as Secretary to the Communist Unity Organising Committee, to approach all other bodies, with a view of setting up a United Committee. The Treasurer has banked a sum of £19 17s. 4d., donated to the Steele and Harvey Fund, and this will be handed over to the United Committee when formed. The appeals of our four Comrades, Harvey, Malone, Pankhurst, and John Steele, come on in the early days of January, and considerably more cash will be required if their interests are to be satisfactorily safeguarded. Treasurer Tom Watkins, 5, Pentre Hill, Cilfrew, Neath, South Wales, will be glad to receive donations to the defence and maintenance of these comrades and their dependants.

COMMUNIST PARTY

British Section of the Third International.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.—The acceptance of the following points: (1) The complete overthrow of Capitalism and the establishment of Communism. (2) The Class struggle. (3) The Dictatorship of the Proletariat. (4) The Soviet or Revolutionary Workers' Council system. (5) Affiliation to the Third International. (6) Refusal to engage in Parliamentary Action. (7) Non-affiliation to the Labour Party.

MINIMUM WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION: Threepence. Entry Fee: One Shilling.

Provisional Secretary: EDGAR T. WHITEHEAD, 8, Sinclair Gardens, West Kensington, London, W.14.

Branches' notes and list of meetings, sent in for publication, should reach the Secretary not later than first post Thursday morning.—All articles and news matter (other than Branches' notes) to be sent to: 400, Old Ford Road, Bow, London, E.3. and marked: "The Editor, The Workers' Dreadnought."

The "WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT" may be obtained for sale at 3/- per quire (26 copies). Usual Trade rates for wholesale and retail newsagents.

All Members should make a special effort to see that our paper is on sale and posters displayed at local newsagents, trade union branches, in the workshop and at all public meetings in their districts.

BRANCH NOTES.

Manchester Division.

Dear Comrades,—

As you may guess, we are well grouped, and in constant touch with each other here in Manchester, the four group are absolutely solid upon the question of retaining the right to oppose the thesis.

We can assure you all that this will be done, even to the *last ditch*, and the *last man*. Our point is, that by remaining firm, we can *win*, not defy Moscow.

That we, who are opposed to any participation in Parliamentary propaganda were fast winning but for the findings of the last Conference—there can be no doubt, because every serious enquiry was, and is still, for the Communist B.S.T.I.

Well, we are waiting for the Thesis and hope that every Branch will be given to understand just what blind acceptance of same must finally mean.

Yours, on behalf of the above,
FRANK ELDER.

Manchester Group.

We have several applications for membership, from comrades who desire to work with a party which is definitely anti-Parliamentary, and we shall doubtless increase our numbers before very long.

Comrade Kershaw of our group, gave a lecture at the Manchester Central (B.S.T.I.) Rooms. He made a strong case for the Anti-Parliamentary position; being also well supported by the members present.

We are still in difficulties regarding our Meeting Room. At present we are meeting at Dale Street, C.L.C., on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 o'clock.

FRANK ELDER, 36, Brunswick Road, Broadheath, Manchester.

Bow.

This Branch has asked for a referendum to be held within the next fortnight, as to whether the members are in favour of taking part in the Unity Conference of January 29th and 30th.

They also ask that at this Conference of January 29th and 30th, the Officials and E.C. of the new party be elected. Branches uniting being asked to send in nominations beforehand and their nominations to be submitted back to the Branches so that delegates may have a mandate at the Conference.

Further, Bow Branch have passed a resolution "That the *Dreadnought* be the organ of the Left Wing in the new party," and wish the Agenda for the January Conference to be issued to Branches as soon as possible.

NORAH L. SMYTH, *Secretary*,
400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

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LONDON MEETINGS: OUTDOOR.

Whitechapel.
Osborne Street, Sundays, at 11.45 a.m.

Poplar.
Dock Gates, Sundays, at 7 p.m.

Camberwell.
Saturdays, at Hanover Park, Rye Lane, at 7.30.
Sundays, Peckham Rye, at 11 a.m.

Willesden.
Manor Park Road, Fridays.

Birmingham.
Bull Ring. Every Friday at 7.30. Every Sunday at 7 p.m.

Barking.
Near Barking Station. Sundays, at 6.30 p.m. Communist speakers.

INDOOR BRANCH MEETINGS.

Soho International.
58, Old Compton Street, Soho, W. Every Wednesday at 8.30 p.m. prompt.

Bow.
400, Old Ford Road. Every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Poplar.
20, Railway Street. Every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Camberwell.
16, Peckham Road, Mondays, at 7.45 p.m.

Hull.
Argyle House, Anlaby Road. Every Wednesday night at 8 p.m.

Hammersmith.
Branch meetings held Fridays, at 8 p.m., at 154, Goldhawk Road, Shepherds Bush, W.

Barking.
Thursdays, at 8 p.m. At "Glenhurst," Ripple Road, Barking, E.

Stepney.
Branch meetings held Thursdays, at 8 p.m., at the I.S.C., 28, East Road, City Road, N. 1.

HYDE PARK PROPAGANDA GROUP.

Sundays, at 11.30 a.m. Prince of Wales, Harrow Rd., Paddington.
Sundays, from 4 p.m. till 10 p.m. Hyde Park, Marble Arch.
Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m. Garrould's Corner, Edgware Road.
Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m. Prince of Wales, Harrow Road.
Saturdays, 6 p.m. till 10 p.m. Hyde Park, Marble Arch.

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